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Massachusetts Archives At U/Mass-Columbia Point: A NEW PERSPECTIVE

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A Proposal Prepared by the Boston Redevelopment Authority
for Paul Guzzi, Secretary of the Committee
and the Archives Building Commission
Sen. Chester G. Atkins, Chairman; Rep. Vincent J. Piro Chairman

Col. Point
365 R.M



A New Perspective . . .

The Massachusetts State Archives is one of the most historic in the nation. We are fortunate to have in our collection significant historic documents that describe the progress and turmoil that have contributed to the Commonwealth's heritage from the early 1600's to the present. For too long, however, we have been severely hampered in our ability to collect, display and restore these materials because of inadequate facilities. Precious historic documents and objects have been scattered throughout the state, hidden in corners of buildings, unnoticed, improperly cared for and unprotected.

In an effort to resolve this problem, a search was begun a year ago to find a new site for the State Archives, a site that would be accessible to both visitors and researchers interested in Massachusetts history, and large enough to store valuable state documents. As a result of this search, we now propose a site at Columbia Point in Dorchester, between the University of Massachusetts and the proposed John F. Kennedy Library, as the best location for the new State Archives.

The Columbia Point site is 2.5 miles from the Massachusetts Turnpike and three miles from downtown Boston; it is 10 minutes by expressway and 15 minutes by public transportation to the State House. It affords excellent views of the Boston skyline, the Harbor Islands and Dorchester Bay.

The new State Archives will be located adjacent to the University of Massachusetts, providing excellent opportunities for joint research, academic programs and the sharing of mutual facilities. In addition, through its proximity to the John F. Kennedy Library, the Archives will be able to attract significant numbers of the projected one million yearly visitors to the Library.

The proposed Archives will include enough storage space to maintain existing state documents as well as future state records. The facility will have an expanded museum, document preservation rooms, and modern office space. The land adjacent to the building will be landscaped as a marine arboretum and will also accommodate necessary future expansion.

The location of the State Archives at Columbia Point in Dorchester can mark a new beginning for Massachusetts. During this Bicentennial year, it is particularly appropriate that we should rededicate our energies and resources to the preservation of our heritage. We can do this by creating an Archives facility where this, and future generations, can gain an understanding of our history and development as a state and can plan wisely for the years to come.

Paul G. Guzzi

Secretary of the Commonwealth

Lump

To his Excell^y the Earle of
Capt^t Gen^t & Governo^r of his Maj^{ts} Collo^r
Massachusetts Bay in N Eng^d &c
Honourable Councill



The Petition of Sarah Kidd Jun^r

That yo^r Petition^r Husband Cap^t W^m Kidd ~
being committed unto the Common Gaol in Boston
for Piracie; and under streight durance, as
alsoe in want of necessary assistance, as well as
from yo^r Petition^r affection to her husband
humblly pray's that yo^r Excell^y & Councill
will be pleased to permitt the sd Sarah Kidd
to have communication, with her husband, for
his releif in such due season & manner as by
yo^r Excell^y & Councill may be thot fit,
prescribed, to which yo^r Petition^r shall thank
fully conforme herselfe & ever prayde a/

Boston 25th July 1699 /

Sarah SK. Kidd

NEED FOR NEW ARCHIVES

Inadequate Storage Facilities

The Massachusetts State Archives currently has 4,500 square feet of storage space. Of this, only 2,600 square feet have proper climate control and security provisions. Because of the lack of appropriate storage space, many valuable and historic documents are completely inaccessible to the public and therefore unavailable for use; they are also stored under conditions that invite theft and decay. Further, rooms designed for a special purpose, such as microfilming, must be used instead for document storage and are unable to fulfill their intended function.

Lack of storage room has also meant that the Archives has been restricted to Legislative papers and has been unable to accept and preserve the records of the Executive and Judicial branches of State government.

The 100-year-old papers of Horace Mann, for example, are held in the Department of Education. The papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, equally as historic, are held by the Metropolitan District Commission. Other examples abound.

These records occupy expensive space in working offices that could be more efficiently used for other purposes. It is estimated that it costs approximately \$9 per year to store each cubic foot of records in an office as opposed to \$2 per year in an archival facility specially designed for the storage of records.

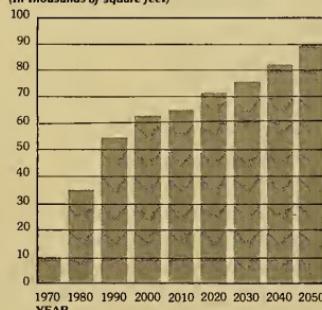
These records are susceptible to theft, loss or deterioration because of improper care. A new Archives would save them and others like them by providing high-quality but inexpensive facilities for the storage of the historically valuable documents of the Commonwealth.

Future Storage Demands

When properly arranged in a new storage facility, the records now held in the State House Archives will expand to approximately 10,000 square feet. The collection of Executive records of historic value would add an additional 25,000 square feet. Older and more valuable Judicial documents would also be acquired, adding another 15,000 square feet.

Once this consolidation process is completed, the Archives is expected to grow at a relatively steady rate. This growth will result from the normal flow of records from the office of creation through the State's Records Center to the Archives. This process is expected to add about 5,000 square feet of records per decade.

**DOCUMENT STORAGE SPACE REQUIREMENTS
(In thousands of square feet)**



Inadequate Museum Facilities

Some 100,000 persons visited the Archives Museum last year.

Unfortunately, it is too small and poorly equipped to present Massachusetts history in the proper manner. A well designed museum that is accessible to visitors is needed.

Since very few museum visitors understand the purpose of archives, exhibits should explain the Archives' usefulness to historians, genealogists, political scientists and government officials. A participatory display on document preservation could let visitors touch different types of paper and see how a document is repaired and preserved.

A major exhibit of the museum would be devoted to the governmental history of the Commonwealth, with the Mayflower Compact, Massachusetts Bay Company Charter and State Constitution prominently featured.

The development of a New England town would be a continuing exhibit, designed to show the Archives' historical map collection and to encourage participation by local historical societies.

The roles of individuals can also be illustrated. Historical anecdotes can be told about Governor Bradford's struggle for survival at Plymouth, Governor Andrew's inspired leadership during the Civil War, and Governor Coolidge's bravery during the Boston Police strike.

Period pieces about more familiar historical events would also be included. The Archives' materials on witchcraft, Daniel Shays' Rebellion or the Revolution could be displayed.

Research Room Overcrowded

Approximately 2,000 researchers use the materials at the Archives each year. Unfortunately, many of the documents in the Archives' collection are not available because they are stored improperly. Many records that should be in the Archives' collection are scattered throughout working offices, and the research room itself is overcrowded and often overlooked in the basement of the State House.

A new facility would comfortably accommodate 20 researchers at one time, without sacrificing security. It would provide space for microfilm reading and a badly needed library.

No Document Preservation Facilities

Facilities do not exist for the application of restoration techniques to decaying documents. Many of the State's priceless historical records are being lost because of an inability to prevent deterioration.

A new facility that provides adequate storage space in addition to proper preservation facilities is badly needed.

In the fifteenth Year of the reign of George, the Third, King &c.



Establish the Resolves of the several Provincial Congresses of this Colony

so necessary to occasion the Public business thereof to be conducted by the most Impartial for the recovery and preservation of that Liberty which God gave to this People have been Resolved. Done and transacted, by Provincial Congress their full effect. And whereas the Legality of such Resolves, doings and Transactions

by the Council and House of Representatives of this Colony, on the 2d of October last, in the Resolves, doings and transactions of the several Provinces of October, One thousand seven hundred and seventy five, &c. and they hereby are, confirmed and established, and proposed whatsoever, as fully and effectually, as if any General Court or Assembly of this Colony, had, or should make, or pass, or ordain, or enact, or cause to be enacted, or made, or proposed, or intended, or intended to be enacted, or made, in accordance to, or in compliance with, any of the Resolves, doings, Recommendations, or other proceedings, such person, or persons, shall and may give this Act, and the Record of the Resolves, doings and one of the several Provincial Congresses aforesaid, in Evidence under the General Seal, and the same thereupon, shall avail to all intents and purposes, as if the same were specially granted any Law, Usage, or Custom notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that the Resolves, doings and transactions of the several Provincial Congresses aforesaid, be immediately hereafter kept in the Secretary's Office of this Colony and that the Secretary shall copy and keep a true record of the Resolves, doings and transactions, so that the same may be used in any of the Courts aforesaid, to which copies so authenticated shall be received as full Courts of Law such Resolves, doings and transactions.

In the House of Representatives August 22, 1775

() Present, Abingdon, Edmonson, Lang,

The Council do act 1775 This engrossed, & being laid upon the table, was read the first time, and the second time, and passed to be enacted.

Samuel Adams

John Whipple, Jr. Foster, Palmer
John Adams, James Bayard, S. Weston
John Hancock, John Quincy Adams
John Adams, Caleb Taylor
John Hancock, John Quincy Adams



SITE SELECTION

Site Criteria

The Site for the Massachusetts State Archives should be:

- Convenient to a large number of people
- Convenient to public transit
- Convenient for automobile access
- Near adequate parking
- Large enough to accommodate expansion
- Near an existing visitor attraction
- Near an educational institution(s)

Site Selection Process

A search was begun a year ago for existing buildings that might be converted for use by the Archives or vacant land suitable for a new Archives facility. No existing buildings were found that met the Archives' special needs for climate control, document security and future expansion.

Of the vacant parcels of land that were considered, only the site at Columbia Point between the University of Massachusetts and the proposed John F. Kennedy Library met all of the criteria established for locating the Archives; it also offered some unique opportunities for attracting visitors and developing special programs.

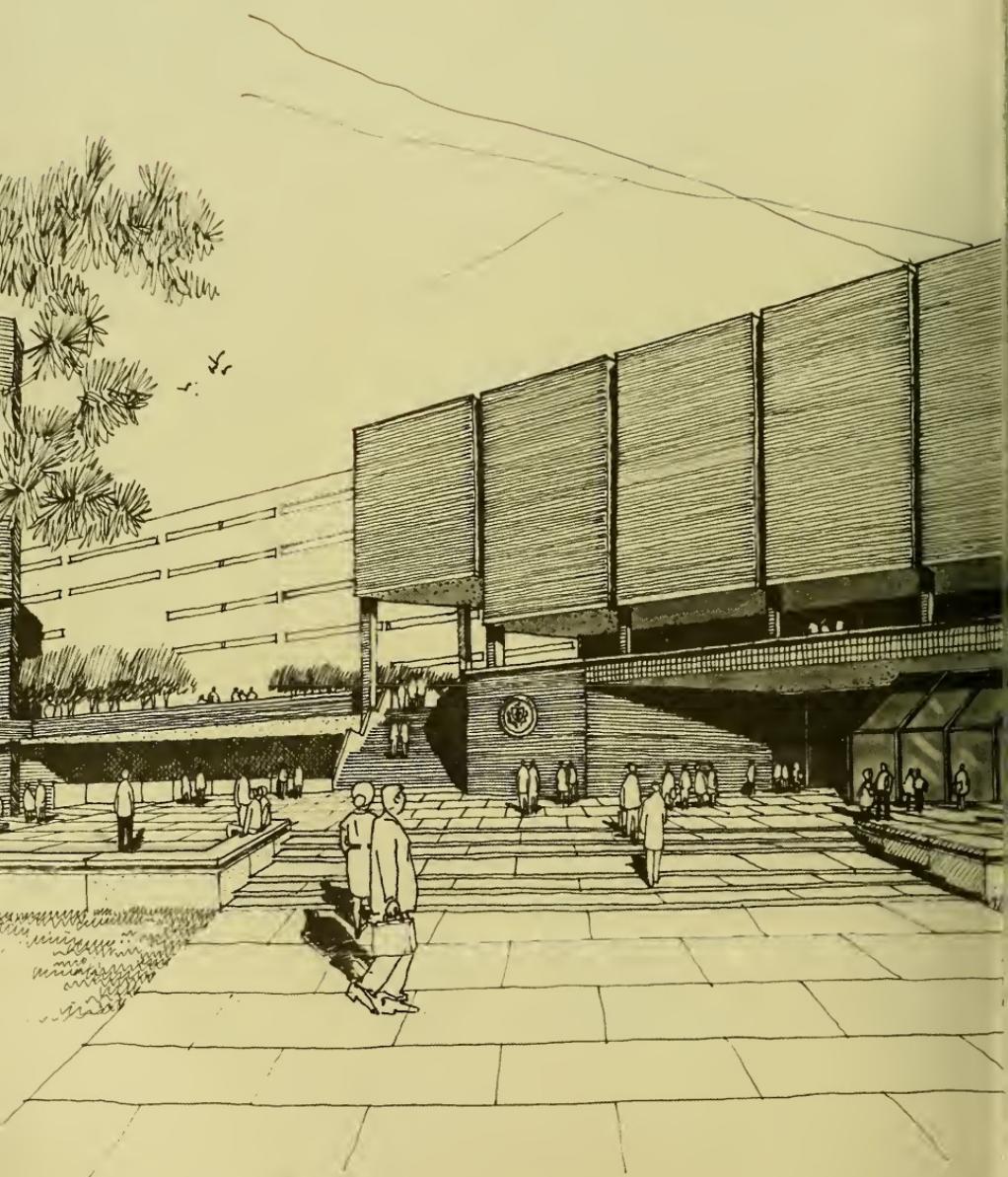
The Proposed Site

The proposed site, adjacent to the University of Massachusetts overlooking Dorchester Bay, provides excellent opportunities for relating the State's public institution of higher learning to the museum and research functions of the Archives. In addition, it is anticipated that the John F. Kennedy Library will attract at least a million visitors a year to the site. A substantial portion of these visitors can be expected to visit the State Archives/Museum as well.

The site is located just 10 minutes by automobile from downtown Boston and the Massachusetts Turnpike via the Southeast Expressway. Ample parking for visitors to the Archives is located under the existing College 1 building. Tour and school buses would park at grade next to the Archives building.

The site is a 15-minute trip by M.B.T.A. from Park Street Station on the Red Line to Columbia Station. The free University shuttle bus would bring visitors to the plaza level of the University, from which it is a short walk across the campus to the Archives site.

VIEW OF ARCHIVES/MUSEUM





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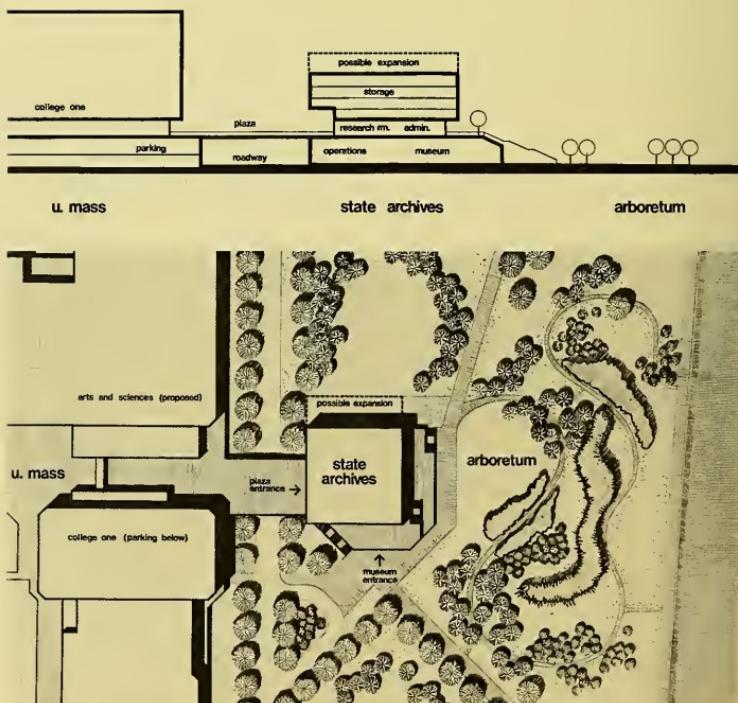
PROPOSED ARCHIVES BUILDING

Proposed Structure

The proposed Archives building is six stories high. Each level contains approximately 18,000 square feet in gross floor area. The museum and operations areas are located at ground level, maximizing accessibility to the John F. Kennedy Library. The research area and administrative offices are located at the plaza level, providing direct access to the University. The archival storage is located above the plaza on four levels.

Expansion could occur either horizontally or vertically as shown on the schematic site plan and section.

A marine arboretum with sitting areas and a seaside walk would be developed as part of the Archives. This site development would capitalize on the proximity to the ocean and the spectacular waterfront view, drawing people down to the water's edge.



New-English Affairs.

Published to prevent False Reports



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In the latter end of June, a Vessel from Mount
joy arrived here, which brought your Declaration
of April 18. with an account of the Revolu-
tion in New-England. The week after I went to
Court, and had the favour to wait on His
Majesty, who told me, That He did accept of, and
well pleased with what was done in New-England,
that he would order the Secretary of State to signi-
fied, and that His Subjects there should have their
Ancient Rights and Priviledges restored to them.

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Proposed Program

The Massachusetts State Archives requires a building that provides sufficient space for the storage and display of historic documents and artifacts, as well as offices and workrooms for the Archives staff.

The following space program for the Archives Building is the result of a detailed analysis of these various needs and represents a realistic estimate of the kind of facility necessary in order to develop a quality archival program in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

	SQ. FT.
Archival Storage Area	50,000

Space for documents now in the Archives collection in addition to the Legislative, Executive and Judicial documents projected for the next 20 years. All storage areas would be provided with the proper climate control and security. Expansion could increase the storage capacity substantially.

Museum	12,000
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An area adequate to display historical documents and artifacts properly and to accommodate the increased number of visitors attracted to the Archives because of its proximity to the John F. Kennedy Library.

Research Area	3,000
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Facilities for the 20 to 25 researchers expected to use the archival materials at one time, including a reading room, small reference library and microfilm reading room.

Operations	4,000
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Areas for receiving, processing, preserving, restoring and duplicating documents.

Administration	3,000
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Offices, work areas and meeting room for the Archives staff.

TOTAL NET ASSIGNABLE AREA	72,000
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PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE

A.	BUILDING	\$6,000,000
B.	SUB-SOIL WORK <small>(Foundations, piles, methane protection)</small>	300,000
C.	SITE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPING	900,000
D.	FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT	400,000
	SUB TOTAL	\$7,600,000
E.	FEES (architectural and engineering)	700,000
	SUB TOTAL	\$8,300,000
F.	CONTINGENCY (20%)	1,660,000
	TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	\$9,960,000

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March 1976

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Boston Redevelopment Auth.
The Mass. Archives at U/Mass-L
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